[English]

Export of Cotton

5784. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the fixation of quota for export of cotton on the basis of production in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of quota fixed or likely to be fixed during the current season, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Government releases quotas of cotton for export based on a firm assessment of the supply and demand for cotton in the country as a whole. A quota of 14.90 lakh bales cotton was released to various exporting agencies; including the Cotton Corporation of India, State Federation, private trade and modern ginning and pressing units during the 1995-96 Cotton season. While some quotas are given exclusively to State Federations, the remaining quotas are not fixed State-wise. No quotas for export of cotton have so far been announced for the 1996-97 season.

Setting up of Free Ports

5785. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Expert Committee was set up to suggest ideal locations of free ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Expert Committee; and

(c) the action taken on each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Committee felt that it was desirable and feasible to set up a Free Port in India and recommended Goa as an ideal location for the Free Port. The Committee also suggested Tuticorin as a suitable site for a second Free Port on the east coast. The recommendations of the Committee besides involving financial implications, also touch upon crucial areas of industrial, fiscal and monetary policies and raise several issues such as environmental/ ecological protection and insulation of the Free Port area from the hinterland. As these matters require careful examination, no final decision has been taken.

Garment Export Quota

5786. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quota fixed for export for the garment exporters for 1996;

(b) whether there is an inordinate delay in the release of aforesaid quota to the garment exporters; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release the quota immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The quota levels agreed in the various bilateral agreements for exports of garments for 1996 are distributed amongst the eligible garment exporters under the following systems :

System	Percentag of Annual Level
(1) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE)	80
(ii) First-Come-First-Served (FCFS)	20
(of which New Investors Entitlement (NIE)	(10)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Revision of Pay Scale

5787. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Guwahati Bench (Shillong Circuit) has given a verdict that the Senior Auditors working in various state A.G. (Audit) Officers should be given Rs. 1640-2900 scale in parity with the employees of the Central Government;

(b) whether the said scale has already been given to the Senior Auditors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati Bench, had, however, asked the Government to re-examine the question of revision of the pay scale of Senior Auditors in the Indian Audit and Accounts Departments from Rs. 1400-2600 to Rs. 1640-2900 and take a suitable decision.

(b) to (d). The matter was carefully reviewed in the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal and it has been decided not ot increase the pay scale of the Senior Auditors as it raises, *inter-alia* inter-linked parity issues with several other similar categories of posts. The matter has also been specifically referred to the 5th Central Pay Commission for making comprehensive recommendations keeping all aspects in view.

Foreign Assistance to Power and Mining Sector

5788. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :